

~~Mr. Faber~~
The Hon. Secy.
the B. & O.
Falmouth

The peregrine falcon or duck hawk, America's rare and rapidly disappearing relative of the European falcon, will make acquaintance this season with prying but friendly census-takers.

The duck hawk or peregrine falcon closely resembles its kinsman which was trained, in the days of chivalry, to sit blind-folded on the gauntlet of king or retainer until released to capture game fowl while hunters watched the thrilling chase. Like its ancient cousin, the peregrine falcon is able to attain almost staggering speeds which have earned for it the popular name "bullet hawk." Some flights have been timed at more than 70 miles an hour. The bird's fleetness, power and endurance, together with its great courage, cause it to be regarded as the most spectacular representative of American airlife.

The collecting of falcon eggs, which are noted for their beauty, and the removal of the young from nests are considered by National Park Service field workers to be major factors in the steady decrease of the birds. Shooting by hunters also has exacted a heavy annual toll and the growing encroachment of civilization upon falcon ranges has removed much of the food supply.

The breeding range extends from central Mexico northward beyond the Arctic Circle and includes most of the United States except the South, the Southeast and the lower section of the Middle Atlantic States. The cliffs and crags of New England are favorite haunts but the winter range moves as far southward as the Caribbean Sea. The seasonal migration to the north is virtually completed during the last two weeks of March when the nesting period begins.

Peregrine falcons, like all other birdlife, are given protection in national parks and in many of the recreational areas now being developed by the National Park Service in cooperation with State and local Governments.

A pair of the rare falcons, the female having a wing spread of nearly four feet, has been prized for several years at Taughannock Falls State Park, near Ithaca, New York, where a nest hangs on the wall of a 400-foot cliff.

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